

WHAT IS CLAIMED

1 1. A method for managing information for an application program, wherein
2 the information includes an information class having a plurality of attributes values,
3 wherein the application program maintains multiple information class instances and
4 wherein each instance includes at least one of the plurality of attribute values,
5 comprising:

6 receiving user input indicating a plurality of information class instances and for
7 each information class instance at least one attribute value;

8 generating a main directory for the application program;

9 for each information class instance received from the user, performing:

10 (i) generating a subdirectory from the main directory for the information
11 class instance;

12 (ii) for each received attribute value for the information class instance,
13 generating one attribute file providing the at least one attribute value; and

14 (iii) storing each generated attribute file in the subdirectory of the
15 information class instance for which the attribute value is provided.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 receiving a request for information on at least one requested attribute value for the
3 information class instances; and

4 in response to the request for information, performing for each information class
5 instance:

6 (i) accessing the subdirectory for the information class instance;

7 (ii) determining whether the accessed subdirectory includes each
8 requested attribute value in one attribute file in the subdirectory; and

9 (iii) if the subdirectory includes each requested attribute value in one
10 attribute file, then returning each requested attribute value from the attribute file.

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1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the request for information further
 2 includes a criteria to apply to at least one of the requested attribute values, further
 3 comprising:
 4 determining whether the requested attribute value in the attribute file to which the
 5 criteria applies satisfies the criteria, wherein the attribute values for one information class
 6 instance are not returned if the criteria for one attribute value of the information class
 7 instance is not satisfied.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the subdirectory does not include one
 2 attribute value if there is no attribute file for the attribute value.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein returning the attribute value further
 2 comprises:
 3 generating the requested attribute values into a form, wherein the form includes
 4 information on attribute values in attribute files in multiple subdirectories for information
 5 class instances, and wherein the form is returned.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the form is implemented in a standard
 2 document format capable of being rendered by a viewer program used to render
 3 documents retrieved from over a network.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the form is implemented as one of a
 2 HyperText Markup Language file or Extensible Markup Language (XML) file and the
 3 viewer program comprises an Internet browser program.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one attribute file provides the
 2 attribute value by embedding the attribute value in a file name of the attribute file.

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1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one attribute file provides the
2 attribute value by inserting the attribute value within the attribute file.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one attribute value is comprised
2 of multiple component values.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein each of the multiple component values is
2 capable of being comprised of a plurality of multiple sub-component values.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the information class comprises a first
2 information class and wherein a second information class is a subclass of the first
3 information class and has at least one attribute value, wherein there is one instance of the
4 second information class for each instance of the first information class, further
5 performing for each instance of the first information class:
6 generating a subdirectory for the second information class in the subdirectory
7 generated for the first information class.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
2 receiving user input for one attribute value for the second information class; and
3 generating one attribute file for the received user input in the subdirectory for the
4 second information class, wherein the attribute file provides the received attribute value.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the attribute value for the second
2 information class for which the attribute file was generated includes at least one attribute
3 value from the first information class.

1 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving a request for statistical information on requested attribute values;
3 for each information class instance, performing:

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- 4 (i) reading the attribute files for the requested attribute values to generate
- 5 information summarizing the attribute values;
- 6 (ii) and returning the information summarizing the attribute values.

1 16. A method for managing information on a plurality of projects, wherein
2 each project is capable of having a plurality of attribute values, comprising:

3 receiving user input on a plurality of projects and for each project at least one
4 attribute value;

5 generating a main directory;

6 for each project for which user input is received, performing:

7 (i) generating a subdirectory from the main directory for the project; and

8 (ii) for each received attribute value, generating one attribute file

9 providing the at least one attribute value.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the attribute values for each project are
2 capable of comprising one or more of the following project attribute values: project
3 comments, a project manager, projected completion date, project purpose, project start
4 date, project actual completion date, project status, project holidays, and project
5 interrupts.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the project interrupts attribute value in
2 the project interrupt file is comprised of multiple interrupt components, wherein each
3 interrupt component includes subcomponents indicating a type of interrupt, date of
4 interrupt, duration of interrupt, and interrupt comments.

1 19. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

2 receiving a request for information on at least one requested attribute value for the
3 project; and

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4 in response to the request for information, performing for each project
 5 subdirectory;
 6 (i) accessing the project subdirectory;
 7 (ii) determining whether the accessed project subdirectory includes each
 8 requested attribute value in one attribute file in the subdirectory;
 9 (iii) if the subdirectory includes each requested attribute value in one
 10 attribute file, then returning each requested attribute value from the attribute file.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the request for information further
 2 includes a criteria to apply to the requested attribute values, wherein the criteria specifies
 3 a status of the project, further comprising:
 4 determining whether the requested attribute value in the attribute file to which the
 5 criteria applies satisfies the criteria, wherein the attribute values for one project
 6 subdirectory are not returned if the criteria for one attribute value is not satisfied.

1 21. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
 2 generating a calendar subdirectory for each project subdirectory, wherein the
 3 calendar subdirectory includes one calendar file for each day for which calendar
 4 information is provided for the project.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the calendar information for one day and
 2 one project is entered by a user.

1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the calendar information entered into
 2 one calendar file for one project comprises one attribute value received from the user for
 3 the project that is also entered into one attribute file in the project subdirectory.

1 24. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
 2 receiving user input for at least one task for one project;

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3 for each task for which user input is received, generating a task subdirectory in
 4 the subdirectory for the project including the task; and
 5 for each received attribute value providing information on the task, generating at
 6 least one attribute file indicating each received attribute value.

1 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising:
 2 receiving user input for one task indicating a number of subtasks;
 3 receiving user input indicating a percent completion for each subtask of the task;
 4 and
 5 for each received percent completion for one subtask, generating at least one
 6 attribute file indicating the percent completion of the subtask.

1 26. A system for managing information for an application program, wherein
 2 the information includes an information class having a plurality of attributes values,
 3 wherein the application program maintains multiple information class instances and
 4 wherein each instance includes at least one of the plurality of attribute values,
 5 comprising:
 6 means for receiving user input indicating a plurality of information class instances
 7 and for each information class instance at least one attribute value;
 8 means for generating a main directory for the application program;
 9 means for performing, for each information class instance received from the user:
 10 (i) generating a subdirectory from the main directory for the information
 11 class instance;
 12 (ii) for each received attribute value for the information class instance,
 13 generating one attribute file providing the at least one attribute value; and
 14 (iii) storing each generated attribute file in the subdirectory of the
 15 information class instance for which the attribute value is provided.

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1 27. The system of claim 26, further comprising:
2 means for receiving a request for information on at least one requested attribute
3 value for the information class instances; and
4 means for performing, in response to the request for information, for each
5 information class instance:
6 (i) accessing the subdirectory for the information class instance;
7 (ii) determining whether the accessed subdirectory includes each
8 requested attribute value in one attribute file in the subdirectory; and
9 (iii) if the subdirectory includes each requested attribute value in one
10 attribute file, then returning each requested attribute value from the attribute file.

1 28. The system of claim 27, wherein the request for information further
2 includes a criteria to apply to at least one of the requested attribute values, further
3 comprising:
4 means for determining whether the requested attribute value in the attribute file to
5 which the criteria applies satisfies the criteria, wherein the attribute values for one
6 information class instance are not returned if the criteria for one attribute value of the
7 information class instance is not satisfied.

1 29. The system of claim 27, wherein the means for returning the attribute
2 value further performs:
3 generating the requested attribute values into a form, wherein the form includes
4 information on attribute values in attribute files in multiple subdirectories for information
5 class instances, and wherein the form is returned.

1 30. The system of claim 26, wherein the information class comprises a first
2 information class and wherein a second information class is a subclass of the first
3 information class and has at least one attribute value, wherein there is one instance of the

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4 second information class for each instance of the first information class, wherein the
5 means for performing for each instance of the first information class further performs:
6 generating a subdirectory for the second information class in the subdirectory
7 generated for the first information class.

1 31. A system for managing information on a plurality of projects, wherein
2 each project is capable of having a plurality of attribute values, comprising:
3 means for receiving user input on a plurality of projects and for each project at
4 least one attribute value;
5 means for generating a main directory;
6 means for performing for each project for which user input is received:
7 (i) generating a subdirectory from the main directory for the project; and
8 (ii) for each received attribute value, generating one attribute file
9 providing the at least one attribute value.

1 32. The system of claim 31, wherein the attribute values for each project are
2 capable of comprising one or more of the following project attribute values: project
3 comments, a project manager, projected completion date, project purpose, project start
4 date, project actual completion date, project status, project holidays, and project
5 interrupts.

1 33. The system of claim 32, wherein the project interrupts attribute value in
2 the project interrupt file is comprised of multiple interrupt components, wherein each
3 interrupt component includes subcomponents indicating a type of interrupt, date of
4 interrupt, duration of interrupt, and interrupt comments.

1 34. The system of claim 31, further comprising:
2 means for receiving a request for information on at least one requested attribute
3 value for the project; and

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4 means for performing, for each project subdirectory, in response to the request for
5 information:

- 6 (i) accessing the project subdirectory;
- 7 (ii) determining whether the accessed project subdirectory includes each
8 requested attribute value in one attribute file in the subdirectory;
- 9 (iii) if the subdirectory includes each requested attribute value in one
10 attribute file, then returning each requested attribute value from the attribute file.

1 35. The system of claim 31, further comprising:
2 means for generating a calendar subdirectory for each project subdirectory,
3 wherein the calendar subdirectory includes one calendar file for each day for which
4 calendar information is provided for the project.

1 36. The system of claim 31, further comprising:
2 means for receiving user input for at least one task for one project;
3 means for generating, for each task for which user input is received, a task
4 subdirectory in the subdirectory for the project including the task; and
5 means for generating, for each received attribute value providing information on
6 the task, at least one attribute file indicating each received attribute value.

1 37. The system of claim 36, further comprising:
2 means for receiving user input for one task indicating a number of subtasks;
3 means for receiving user input indicating a percent completion for each subtask of
4 the task; and
5 means for generating, for each received percent completion for one subtask, at
6 least one attribute file indicating the percent completion of the subtask.

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1 38. An article of manufacture including code for managing information for an
 2 application program, wherein the information includes an information class having a
 3 plurality of attributes values, wherein the application program maintains multiple
 4 information class instances and wherein each instance includes at least one of the
 5 plurality of attribute values, wherein the code causes operations to be performed
 6 comprising:

7 receiving user input indicating a plurality of information class instances and for
 8 each information class instance at least one attribute value;

9 generating a main directory for the application program;

10 for each information class instance received from the user, performing:

11 (i) generating a subdirectory from the main directory for the information
 12 class instance;

13 (ii) for each received attribute value for the information class instance,
 14 generating one attribute file providing the at least one attribute value; and

15 (iii) storing each generated attribute file in the subdirectory of the
 16 information class instance for which the attribute value is provided.

1 39. The article of manufacture of claim 38, further comprising:

2 receiving a request for information on at least one requested attribute value for the
 3 information class instances; and

4 in response to the request for information, performing for each information class
 5 instance:

6 (i) accessing the subdirectory for the information class instance;

7 (ii) determining whether the accessed subdirectory includes each
 8 requested attribute value in one attribute file in the subdirectory; and

9 (iii) if the subdirectory includes each requested attribute value in one
 10 attribute file, then returning each requested attribute value from the attribute file.

FOOTNOTES

1 40. The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the request for
2 information further includes a criteria to apply to at least one of the requested attribute
3 values, further comprising:
4 determining whether the requested attribute value in the attribute file to which the
5 criteria applies satisfies the criteria, wherein the attribute values for one information class
6 instance are not returned if the criteria for one attribute value of the information class
7 instance is not satisfied.

1 41. The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the subdirectory does not
2 include one attribute value if there is no attribute file for the attribute value.

1 42. The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein returning the attribute
2 value further comprises:
3 generating the requested attribute values into a form, wherein the form includes
4 information on attribute values in attribute files in multiple subdirectories for information
5 class instances, and wherein the form is returned.

1 43. The article of manufacture of claim 42, wherein the form is implemented
2 in a standard document format capable of being rendered by a viewer program used to
3 render documents retrieved from over a network.

1 44. The article of manufacture of claim 43, wherein the form is implemented
2 as one of a HyperText Markup Language file or Extensible Markup Language (XML) file
3 and the viewer program comprises an Internet browser program.

1 45. The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein at least one attribute file
2 provides the attribute value by embedding the attribute value in a file name of the
3 attribute file.

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1 46. The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein at least one attribute file
2 provides the attribute value by inserting the attribute value within the attribute file.

1 47. The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein at least one attribute value
2 is comprised of multiple component values.

1 48. The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein each of the multiple
2 component values is capable of being comprised of a plurality of multiple sub-component
3 values.

1 49. The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the information class
2 comprises a first information class and wherein a second information class is a subclass
3 of the first information class and has at least one attribute value, wherein there is one
4 instance of the second information class for each instance of the first information class,
5 further performing for each instance of the first information class:
6 generating a subdirectory for the second information class in the subdirectory
7 generated for the first information class.

1 50. The article of manufacture of claim 49, further comprising:
2 receiving user input for one attribute value for the second information class; and
3 generating one attribute file for the received user input in the subdirectory for the
4 second information class, wherein the attribute file provides the received attribute value.

1 51. The article of manufacture of claim 49, wherein the attribute value for the
2 second information class for which the attribute file was generated includes at least one
3 attribute value from the first information class.

1 52. The article of manufacture of claim 38, further comprising:
2 receiving a request for statistical information on requested attribute values;

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- 3 for each information class instance, performing:
- 4 (i) reading the attribute files for the requested attribute values to generate
- 5 information summarizing the attribute values;
- 6 (ii) and returning the information summarizing the attribute values.

1 53. An article of manufacture including code for managing information on a
2 plurality of projects, wherein each project is capable of having a plurality of attribute
3 values, wherein the code causes operations to be performed comprising:
4 receiving user input on a plurality of projects and for each project at least one
5 attribute value;
6 generating a main directory;
7 for each project for which user input is received, performing:
8 (i) generating a subdirectory from the main directory for the project; and
9 (ii) for each received attribute value, generating one attribute file
10 providing the at least one attribute value.

1 54. The article of manufacture of claim 53, wherein the attribute values for
2 each project are capable of comprising one or more of the following project attribute
3 values: project comments, a project manager, projected completion date, project purpose,
4 project start date, project actual completion date, project status, project holidays, and
5 project interrupts.

1 55. The article of manufacture of claim 54, wherein the project interrupts
2 attribute value in the project interrupt file is comprised of multiple interrupt components,
3 wherein each interrupt component includes subcomponents indicating a type of interrupt,
4 date of interrupt, duration of interrupt, and interrupt comments.

FOOTNOTES

1 56. The article of manufacture of claim 53, further comprising:
2 receiving a request for information on at least one requested attribute value for the
3 project; and
4 in response to the request for information, performing for each project
5 subdirectory;
6 (i) accessing the project subdirectory;
7 (ii) determining whether the accessed project subdirectory includes each
8 requested attribute value in one attribute file in the subdirectory;
9 (iii) if the subdirectory includes each requested attribute value in one
10 attribute file, then returning each requested attribute value from the attribute file.

1 57. The article of manufacture of claim 56, wherein the request for
2 information further includes a criteria to apply to the requested attribute values, wherein
3 the criteria specifies a status of the project, further comprising:
4 determining whether the requested attribute value in the attribute file to which the
5 criteria applies satisfies the criteria, wherein the attribute values for one project
6 subdirectory are not returned if the criteria for one attribute value is not satisfied.

1 58. The article of manufacture of claim 53, further comprising:
2 generating a calendar subdirectory for each project subdirectory, wherein the
3 calendar subdirectory includes one calendar file for each day for which calendar
4 information is provided for the project.

1 59. The article of manufacture of claim 58, wherein the calendar information
2 for one day and one project is entered by a user.

1 60. The article of manufacture of claim 58, wherein the calendar information
2 entered into one calendar file for one project comprises one attribute value received from

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3 the user for the project that is also entered into one attribute file in the project
4 subdirectory.

1 61. The article of manufacture of claim 53, further comprising:
2 receiving user input for at least one task for one project;
3 for each task for which user input is received, generating a task subdirectory in
4 the subdirectory for the project including the task; and
5 for each received attribute value providing information on the task, generating at
6 least one attribute file indicating each received attribute value.

1 62. The article of manufacture of claim 61, further comprising:
2 receiving user input for one task indicating a number of subtasks;
3 receiving user input indicating a percent completion for each subtask of the task;
4 and
5 for each received percent completion for one subtask, generating at least one
attribute file indicating the percent completion of the subtask.

1 63. A computer readable medium including information for an application
2 program, wherein the information includes an information class having a plurality of
3 attributes values, wherein the application program maintains multiple information class
4 instances and wherein each instance includes at least one of the plurality of attribute
5 values, comprising:
6 a main file directory for the application program;
7 one subdirectory from the main directory for each information class instance; and
8 one attribute file for each attribute value for each information class instance,
9 wherein each attribute file provides one attribute value and is in the subdirectory of the
10 information class instance for which the attribute value is provided.

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1 64. The computer readable medium of claim 63, wherein at least one attribute
2 file provides the attribute value by embedding the attribute value in a file name of the
3 attribute file.

1 65. The computer readable medium of claim 63, wherein at least one attribute
2 file provides the attribute value by inserting the attribute value within the attribute file.

1 66. The computer readable medium of claim 63, wherein the information class
2 comprises a first information class and wherein a second information class is a subclass
3 of the first information class and has at least one attribute value, wherein there is one
4 instance of the second information class for each instance of the first information class,
5 further comprising:

6 a subdirectory for the second information class for each first information class in
7 the subdirectory generated for the first information class.

1 67. A computer readable medium including information on a plurality of
2 projects, wherein each project is capable of having a plurality of attribute values,
3 comprising:

4 a main directory;
5 a subdirectory from the main directory for the project; and
6 one attribute file for each attribute value providing the at least one attribute value.

1 68. The computer readable medium of claim 67, wherein the attribute values
2 for each project are capable of comprising one or more of the following project attribute
3 values: project comments, a project manager, projected completion date, project purpose,
4 project start date, project actual completion date, project status, project holidays, and
5 project interrupts.

FOOTNOTES

1 69. The computer readable medium of claim 67, further comprising:
2 a calendar subdirectory for each project subdirectory, wherein the calendar
3 subdirectory includes one calendar file for each day for which calendar information is
4 provided for the project.

1 70. The computer readable medium of claim 57, further comprising:
2 a task subdirectory in the subdirectory for the project including each task for
3 which user input is received; and
4 one attribute file indicating a received attribute value for each received attribute
5 value providing information on the task.

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